

Weekly Column for November 9, 2006

Sunny skies and temperatures in the mid 60's? It doesn't get much better than this in November.

Last night we had the information meeting on the Homebuyer Investment Program I mentioned in the column last week, and I am confident in saying that it was a tremendous success. More than 100 people crowded into the City Council chambers last night despite the heavy rainy falling outside.

As I told the people in the crowd as the meeting began, several of these new programs that we have to offer, including HIP and the Code Compliance Grant Program, are funded with money that we have received, money that we want to give away to you. The next step in the process is for the people interested to fill out the pre-screening forms and send them back to the Planning Department. If you are interested in owning a home in Troy and would like more information about the programs we offer, please contact the Planning Department at 270-4619.

One of the themes of the meeting, and really the entire program, is that this is not only an effort to offer people affordable housing that they can have for an entire lifetime, but it is an investment into our neighborhoods. Strong neighborhoods are built by strong people. And by increasing home ownership throughout the City of Troy we believe we will increase the quality of life as well.

Again, if you have any questions or interest in the programs that could help you buy a home in the City of Troy, please do not hesitate to contact our Planning Department.

Finally this week, we are just two weeks away from Thanksgiving, which can mean only one thing- Turkey Trot. Obviously the Turkey Trot is one of the most popular road races around, especially during the holiday season. Whether it is the Turkey Walk bright and early in the morning, or the advanced 10K later in the day, there is something for everyone- runners, families, and observers alike.

For me it is difficult to choose which aspect of the races are the most entertaining. The amazing athletic ability of the top competitors, the weekend warriors who participate in this event on an annual basis, or the ridiculous costumes that some of the 'runners' wear. If you have never experienced a Troy Turkey Trot, this is the year to do it.

Check out the front page of the website for more information on registration.

Thank you and have a great weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy